

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 13 through 26 are pending, with Claims 13 and 19 being independent.

Claims 13 and 19 have been amended.

Transmitted herewith are nineteen replacement sheets of formal drawings comprising Figs. 1 through 11, 12A, 12B, and 13 through 18, which are clean copies of the originally filed drawings. Favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Claims 13 through 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over US 2002/0163666 A1 (Iwata, et al.), taken alone or in view of US 7,307,751 B2 (Aritomi), both newly-cited. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 13 and 19 variously recite, *inter alia*, providing, when the virtual printer set to a second output method is designated, a second user interface of the virtual printer without performing the conflict process, the second user interface including a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer in the plurality corresponding to a printer driver of a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Iwata, et al. nor Aritomi, even in the proposed combination, assuming, *arguendo*, that such could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 13 and 19.

Applicant respectfully submits that Iwata, et al. discloses, e.g., in Figs. 6 and 32, a recovery field of a distributed printing properties dialog box, for specifying another printer as a recovery resource in the case of occurrence of any error in the printer specified for distributed printing (e.g., [0222], [0366]), and in Fig. 37, the printer “LP-9600” in printer

input box id7 is set as the recovery resource — i.e., Iwata, et al. merely discloses specifying another printer such as the LP-9600 as a recovery resource, and Iwata, et al.'s Figs. 6 and 32 do not contain any user interface with a setting item for setting the LP-9600, as a result of which such setting is required to be done separately. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Iwata, et al.'s specifying another printer as a recovery resource does not constitute or suggest the above-discussed claimed features which require, *inter alia*, a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer.

Applicant also submits that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such features. Applicant respectfully submits that by means of such features, e.g., the printing properties for the representative member printer can be set in the second user interface of the virtual printer instead of requiring that the user open another user interface. Of course, the claims are not limited to the foregoing or to the disclosed embodiments.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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